R E M A R K S

The Examiner is thanked for conducting a telephone interview on June 29, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner reviewed new claim 16 and agreed that new claim 16 better recited the features of the present invention in a manner that may distinguish over the prior art of record.

Claim 16 has been prepared to even more clearly recite the features of the present invention, as discussed with the Examiner.

In addition, new claims 17-21 have been added to recite additional feature of the present invention depending from new claim 16.

Still further, new independent method claim 22 and new independent computer-readable storage medium/program claim 29 have been prepared based on new claim 16, and new claims 23-27 and 30-34 correspond to claims 17-21, respectively, depending from new independent claims 22 and 29.

Yet still further, new claims 28 and 35 depending respectively from claims 22 and 29, moreover, have been added to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the selection attribute of every region in the region table is changed to null each time a coordinate is designated via the coordinate input device, before one of the regions is selected based on the designated coordinate. See, for example, Fig. 8.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 16-35 be approved and entered.

According to the present invention as recited in the new claims, a plurality of overlapping regions on the display screen are rearranged based on at least one attribute of the plurality of regions stored in the region table. And with the structure of the claimed present invention, even though the regions are overlapping and are arranged based on the attributes stored in the table, a desired one of the regions can still be selected easily and intuitively.

More specifically, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 16, for example, an inside selection decision section selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located inside the region, while a border selection decision section selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located on a borderline defining a periphery of the region. Thus, with the structure of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 16, one of the overlapping regions can be selected either by designating a position inside the borders of the region or by designating the border of the region.

In addition, according to new independent claim 16, an editing section moves the selected region or changes a size

thereof. Therefore, it is possible to, for example, select the desired region to be moved when the region is selected by designating a coordinate the inside of the region, and it is possible to select a desired region to have its size changed by designating a coordinate on the border of the region.

Still further, according to new independent claim 16, whether or not a region is selected is indicated by a selection attribute thereof in the region table, and according to claim 16 a selected state clearing section is provided which changes the selection attribute of every region in the region table to null. With this structure, the selection of a region is customizable.

New independent method claim 22 and new independent computer-readable storage medium/program claim 29, moreover, recited a corresponding method and computer program, respectively.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Powers et al (USP 5,469,540) merely discloses "access and presentation windows [that] 'float' above all other layered windows being displayed regardless of the application currently being executed by the user" (abstract). Thus, the "selected" window 310 pointed to by the Examiner in Fig. 25 of Powers et al is merely an always-floating "presentation window." According to Powers et al, by using the floating presentation window 310, two windows can be simultaneously acted upon.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Powers et al does not disclose, teach or suggest rearranging and selecting windows in the manner of the claimed present invention. In fact, since Powers et al discloses the access and presentation windows as being floating to be active for a user regardless of the application being run, Powers et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a selected state clearing section which changes the selection attribute of every region in the region table to null.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Powers et al also clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention recited in new claims 17-21, 23-28 and 30-35 depending from the new independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 16, 22 and 29, as well as each of new claims 17-21, 23-28 and 30-35 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Powers et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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